

Challenges and Collaboration in Watershed Planning

Fountain Creek Watershed Study,
Colorado

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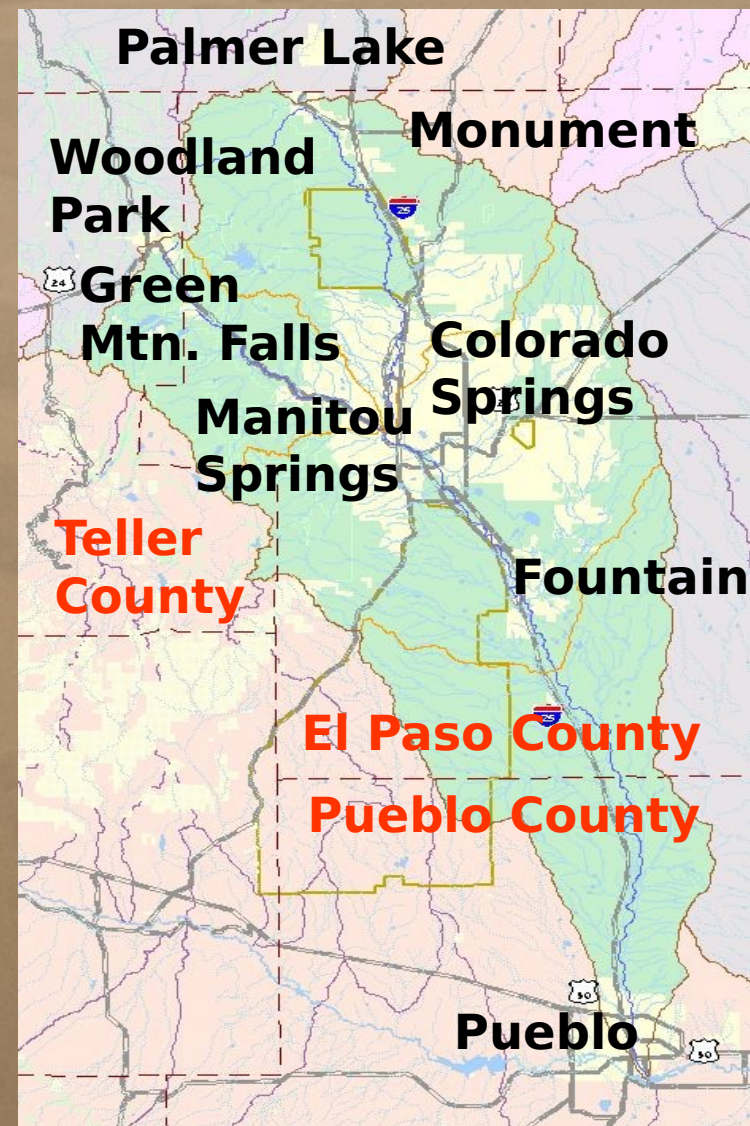
Fountain Creek Watershed Study

Watershed

930 sq. mi.
150+ stream miles
studied
2 Congressional Districts

Sponsors

8 Communities
3 Counties
2 State Agencies



3 Areas Of Challenges

- **Communication/Coordination**
- **Technical Level of Detail**
- **Education**

How Do You Bring The Sponsors Together?

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- **Utilize existing grassroots watershed organizations**
- **Utilize local council(s) of governments**

How Do You Pick A Lead Sponsor?

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- **Lead sponsor should be able to take role of bank for the sponsor group**
- **Lead sponsor should have strong Congressional liaison**
- **Lead sponsor should have some technical background**

How Do You Decide On A Scope Of Study?

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- **Allow sponsors to prioritize**
- **Utilize stakeholder input**
- **Build on existing plans and studies**
- **Use a neutral party to help facilitate discussion**
- **Look for special needs common to all sponsors**
- **Don't stop until consensus is reached**

How Do You Determine Technical Level Of Detail?

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- **Encourage sponsors with technical expertise to lead discussion**
- **Educate team, internal and external, on watershed study requirements**
- **Develop prioritized areas or stream reaches that have varying levels of detail**

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- **Lead sponsor agreements with other sponsors - You need to know what's in them**
- **Typical schedules will most likely not apply**
- **Expect a large amount of Congressional coordination for continued funding**
- **Avoid mission creep**

Key Takeaway Points

- Capitalize on the work of existing watershed groups
- Choose a strong lead sponsor who can be the bank
- Help your sponsors prioritize and reach consensus
- Utilize stakeholder input
- Have an honest broker to facilitate scoping
- Scoping process will take time - be patient